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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 10 MASERU 000057

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP: PENA & KRONENBURG; AF/RSA: DEES; AF/S:  
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TAGS: [KTIP](#) [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KFRD](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [SMIG](#)  
KMCA, LT  
SUBJECT: LESOTHO: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: A. State 2094 B. 09 Maseru 429

11. (U) THE COUNTRY'S TIP SITUATION:

-- A. What is (are) the source(s) of available information on human trafficking? What plans are in place (if any) to undertake further documentation of human trafficking? How reliable are these sources?

Sources of information on trafficking are becoming more plentiful. Susan Kreston, a former Fulbright researcher at the University of the Free State, did three separate trainings for stakeholders, including members of government Ministries tasked with working on trafficking, and she volunteered to be a contact and source of information for anyone looking for information on trafficking. SADC has made trafficking a priority issue, so neighboring countries such as South Africa and Swaziland are beginning to pass legislation which Lesotho has gotten copies of, and will be consulting as they begin to draft their own comprehensive anti-trafficking law. Several local NGOs (such as Women and Law in Southern Africa [WLSA]) and the Ministry of Gender have begun awareness campaigns to inform the public about the crime of trafficking, and what to do if they suspect that someone may be a victim. In addition, the Ministry of Gender has teamed up with the Government of South Africa to give awareness workshops in towns along the Lesotho / South Africa border.

The Intersectoral Committee on Trafficking gathers stakeholders from the government, the NGO community, border security, prosecutors, etc. With the committee, the following Ministries are represented: Justice and Human Rights, Education and Training, Labour and Employment, Foreign Affairs, Law and Constitutional Affairs, Gender and Youth Affairs, Health and Social Welfare, Home Affairs. Also represented are the Lesotho Mounted Police Service's Child and Gender Protection Unit, the South African High Commission, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, and NGOs such as Lesotho Save the Children, PHELA Health and Development Communications, Action Aid Lesotho, Development for Peace Education, National University of Lesotho, Sisters of the Holy Names, and the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit.

WLSA has applied for a G/TIP grant to conduct a baseline study to form an idea of how prevalent trafficking is in the country. UNDP has provided funding to the Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Home Affairs, for a baseline study in the district of Quthing. Cabinet has also gotten approval for Lesotho to become a member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). One of the specific reasons that Lesotho is pursuing membership is in the hopes that the IOM will then be in a position to assist Lesotho to do a baseline study for the entire country to inform its decisions on anti-trafficking

efforts going forward.

All these sources are very reliable.

-- B. Is the country a country of origin, transit, and/or destination for men, women, or children subjected to conditions of commercial sexual exploitation, forced or bonded labor, or other slave-like conditions? Are citizens or residents of the country subjected to such trafficking conditions within the country? If so, does this internal trafficking occur in territory outside of the government's control (e.g. in a civil war situation)? From where are people recruited or from where do they migrate prior to being subjected to these exploitative conditions? To what other countries are people trafficked and for what purposes? Provide, where possible, numbers or estimates for each group of trafficking victims. Have there been any changes in the TIP situation since the last TIP Report (e.g. changes in destinations)?

The country is thought to be primarily a country of origin for trafficking. No data is available since the 2004 UNESCO study which was mentioned in last year's report. However, it is thought that women and children are trafficked to become domestic workers, and that men are trafficked as farm and mine labor. It is not clear that there is any internal trafficking in the country. It is assumed that South Africa is the final destination for trafficking victims. No known changes in destinations since the last TIP report.

-- C. To what kind of conditions are the trafficking victims subjected?

Again, there is no new data since the 2004 UNESCO report, however, anecdotal evidence suggests that young women are

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promised jobs in South Africa, taken across the border, and used for sex in prison-like conditions. Men who are trafficked for labor often work long hours for months at a time, and are dumped at the border without being paid at the end of the work period, accused of illegal immigration. There is no indication that this group is kept in prison-like conditions, rather they are enticed by the promise of wages which never materialize.

-- D. Vulnerability to TIP: Are certain groups of persons more at risk of human trafficking (e.g. women and children, boys versus girls, certain ethnic groups, refugees, IDPs, etc.)? If so, please specify the type of exploitation for which these groups are most at risk

It is thought that those most at risk of trafficking in Lesotho are the ambitious or desperate poor. These can be men who have heard that others from their community or circle of friends managed to sneak over the border to South Africa and find work on the farms or in the mines. For women, the temptation of working as a domestic helper in South Africa may make them vulnerable to the claims of a trafficker. Lastly, the approximately 100,000 full orphans and 80,000 vulnerable children (those who have lost at least one parent) are becoming more vulnerable to manipulation by traffickers as their social safety net erodes under the influence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Older siblings promised money to feed their younger brothers and sisters would be particularly vulnerable to coercion.

-- E. Traffickers and Their Methods: Who are the traffickers/exploiters? Are they independent business people? Small or family-based crime groups? Large international organized crime syndicates? What methods are used to gain direct access to victims? For example, are the traffickers recruiting victims through lucrative job offers? Are victims sold by their families, or approached by friends of friends? Are victims "self-presenting" (approaching the exploiter without the involvement of a recruiter or transporter)? If recruitment or transportation is involved, what methods are used to recruit or transport victims (e.g., are false documents being used)? Are employment, travel, and tourism agencies or marriage

brokers involved with or fronting for traffickers or crime groups to traffic individuals?

The 2004 UNESCO study states that "such information does not exist as there have not yet been specific and focused police investigations on this problem." However, from conversations with members of the GOL and the Intersectoral Committee we can guess that any traffickers would be individuals or independent business people. In the case of men trafficked to South Africa as farm labor, it seems that individual farmers are involved. Victims are likely to be self-presenting, as the big draw for anyone considering illegal economic migration from Lesotho is a job, just about any job, and for just about any salary. We have not heard of any brokers being involved with any of the anecdotal cases which have been mentioned.

12. (U) SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS:

-- A. Does the government acknowledge that human trafficking is a problem in the country? If not, why not?

The GOL recognizes trafficking as a serious crime. In discussions with the Foreign Minister and other government officials, they each indicate that even if one citizen of Lesotho is trafficked, it is a serious problem which they would like to eradicate. They are completely committed to fighting this crime. However, they are hindered by the more immediate priorities of a country with a 25% rate of HIV/AIDS (40% among some age groups); up to 50% unemployment according to some sources; dwindling economic base as textile factories continue to fire workers; and an uncertain future for the other revenue generators in the country, such as the diamond mines and SACU receipts.

-- B. Which government agencies are involved in efforts to combat sex and labor trafficking - including forced labor - and, which agency, if any, has the lead in these efforts?

Currently, the Ministries of Justice and Human Rights, Education and Training, Labour and Employment, Foreign Affairs, Law and Constitutional Affairs, Gender and Youth Affairs, Health and Social Welfare, and Home Affairs are all members of the Intersectoral anti-Trafficking Committee. However, with the GOL's new focus on trafficking, as well as a SADC-wide focus on

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the crime, it is likely that most government ministries will be involved. The government has not yet determined which ministry should take the lead on trafficking, but the Ministries of Home Affairs and Gender are the most directly involved at this time. It is likely that Home Affairs will take the lead on drafting the comprehensive anti-trafficking law, while Gender will take the lead on sensitizing the public about the crime of trafficking.

-- C. What are the limitations on the government's ability to address these problems in practice? For example, is funding for police or other institutions inadequate? Is overall corruption a problem? Does the government lack the resources to aid victims?

The government is hindered by the more immediate priorities of a country with a 25% rate of HIV/AIDS (40% among some age groups); up to 50% unemployment according to some sources; dwindling economic base as textile factories continue to fire workers; and an uncertain future for the other revenue generators in the country, such as the diamond mines, and SACU receipts. Funding is inadequate everywhere. Because of decreased revenues, each ministry was just required to cut their budget by up to 13% in 2010 versus 2009. Corruption is not a major problem in Lesotho. The government does lack the resources to aid victims. However, if donor funding could be found for trafficking, the government would support: a) drafting a law; b) sensitizing the public; c) building shelters for victim protection, etc. They have indicated their willingness to do so, but they need funds

and expert help.

-- D. To what extent does the government systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts (on all fronts -- prosecution, victim protection, and prevention) and periodically make available, publicly or privately and directly or through regional/international organizations, its assessments of these anti-trafficking efforts?

The Intersectoral Committee is attempting to gain an understanding of the various anti-trafficking efforts proceeding in the country. They will eventually become the government watchdog for anti-trafficking efforts, once the crime is more fully understood and prosecutions of traffickers begin. No assessments have been done at this time, but the anti-trafficking efforts here are still young. The Intersectoral Committee in its current form was begun in July 2009, and is still finalizing its plan of action.

-- E. What measures has the government taken to establish the identity of local populations, including birth registration, citizenship, and nationality?

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, citizenship is derived by birth within the country's territory and a person needs to apply for a Lesotho passport at the Ministry of Home Affairs to prove citizenship. According to the Office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District Administrator's Office, all births are registered by hospitals and local clinics. Children born in private homes are registered at the offices of local chiefs, and the information is then transmitted to the District Administrator's Office for issuance of birth certificates.

--F. To what extent is the government capable of gathering the data required for an in-depth assessment of law enforcement efforts? Where are the gaps? Are there any ways to work around these gaps?

Government, through the Bureau of Statistics, is able to gather data required for an in-depth assessment of law enforcement efforts. However, this is not being done at this time because such a request has not been made.

### 13. (U) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS:

For questions A-D, posts should highlight in particular whether or not the country has enacted any new legislation since the last TIP report.

-- A. Existing Laws against TIP: Does the country have a law or laws specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons -- both sexual exploitation and labor? If so, please specifically cite the name of the law(s) and its date of enactment and provide the exact language [actual copies preferable] of the TIP provisions. Please provide a full inventory of trafficking laws, including

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non-criminal statutes that allow for civil penalties against alleged trafficking crimes (e.g., civil forfeiture laws and laws against illegal debt). Does the law(s) cover both internal and transnational forms of trafficking? If not, under what other laws can traffickers be prosecuted? For example, are there laws against slavery or the exploitation of prostitution by means of force, fraud, or coercion? Are these other laws being used in trafficking cases?

The Child Protection and Welfare Bill is anticipated to pass during this session of Parliament. The bill has passed through Cabinet and is awaiting scheduling in Parliament. That bill contains anti-trafficking legislation, but limited to children. Traffickers can also currently be prosecuted under the Child Protection Act of 1980; the Sexual Offenses Act of 2003; Kidnapping, which is an offense under Common Law, and the Labor Code Order of 1981 as amended. The Government of Lesotho also supports women's rights and all citizens are constitutionally

guaranteed freedom from slavery and forced labor. These laws would also apply to transnational trafficking involving Basotho. Lesotho is also a party to several international conventions which have been ratified and included in domestic laws. Section three of the 2004 UNESCO study has further detailed information about laws governing trafficking-related crimes in Lesotho and how they can be applied.

-- B. Punishment of Sex Trafficking Offenses: What are the prescribed and imposed penalties for the trafficking of persons for commercial sexual exploitation, including for the forced prostitution of adults and the prostitution of children?

The Sexual Offenses Act of 2003 prohibits rape, including spousal rape, and mandates a minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment, with no option for a fine. The penalties depend on the circumstances and the discretion of the Magistrate. Further information on laws and sentencing can be found in the 3rd section of the UNESCO study.

-- C. Punishment of Labor Trafficking Offenses: What are the prescribed and imposed penalties for labor trafficking offenses, including all forms of forced labor? If your country is a source country for labor migrants, do the government's laws provide for criminal punishment -- i.e. jail time -- for labor recruiters who engage in recruitment of workers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive offers with the purpose of subjecting workers to compelled service in the destination country? If your country is a destination for labor migrants (legal/regular or illegal/irregular), are there laws punishing employers or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents for the purpose of labor trafficking, switch contracts without the worker's consent as a means to keep the worker in a state of compelled service, or withhold payment of salaries as means of keeping the worker in a state of compelled service?

Lesotho's Constitution stipulates that "no person shall be held in slavery or servitude." The Labor Code Order of 1981 as amended prohibits employers from ill treating employees. All labor matters are dealt with by the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution and the Labor Court. The penalties include employers being forced to pay overtime, severance payments, or reinstating an employee who may have been dismissed unfairly. Lesotho is not a destination for labor migrants.

-- D. What are the prescribed penalties for rape or forcible sexual assault? (NOTE: This is necessary to evaluate a foreign government's compliance with TVPA Minimum Standard 2, which reads: "For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking... the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault (rape)." END NOTE)

The law prohibits rape, including spousal rape, and mandates a minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment, with no option for a fine.

-- E. Law Enforcement Statistics: Did the government take legal action against human trafficking offenders during the reporting period? If so, provide numbers of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences imposed, including details on plea bargains and fines, if relevant and available. Please note the number of convicted trafficking offenders who received suspended sentences and the number who received only a fine as punishment. Please indicate which laws were used to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence traffickers. Also, if possible, please disaggregate numbers of cases by type of TIP (labor vs.

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commercial sexual exploitation) and victims (children under 18 years of age vs. adults). What were the actual punishments imposed on convicted trafficking offenders? Are they serving the time sentenced? If not, why not?

No trafficking offenders were identified during the reporting period.

-- F. Does the government provide any specialized training for law enforcement and immigration officials on identifying and treating victims of trafficking? Or training on investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes? Specify whether NGOs, international organizations, and/or the USG provide specialized training for host government officials.

The government, through the Intersectoral Committee, has encouraged participation in the three trafficking in persons workshops sponsored by the Embassy from 2008-2009. The most recent, in October 2009, particularly targeted law enforcement and immigration officials, and focused on identifying traffickers and their victims, as well as what laws could be used to prosecute them under Lesotho's existing legal system. According to media reports, South African police are working together with the Lesotho Mounted Police Service on trafficking. The October training was done in partnership with Women and Law in Southern Africa, a local NGO which is doing a lot of work on trafficking.

--G. Does the government cooperate with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases? If possible, provide the number of cooperative international investigations on trafficking during the reporting period.

The GOL has indicated its willingness to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. To the Embassy's knowledge, none are currently on-going. In the past, the government has cooperated with other governments (especially South Africa) in the investigation of trafficking-related cases.

In 2004 and 2005, it was reported that a number of Sri Lankans were brought to the Chinese-run factories after being promised lucrative jobs. They were allegedly exploited for cheap (free) labor. There was also a report of Basotho girls being trafficked to London by Nigerians staying in South Africa in 2005. Details for some of these cases can be found in the Annex to the UNESCO study. The government assists in investigating these types of cases.

-- H. Does the government extradite persons who are charged with trafficking in other countries? If so, please provide the number of traffickers extradited during the reporting period, and the number of trafficking extraditions pending. In particular, please report on any pending or concluded extraditions of trafficking offenders to the United States.

There have been no cases of extradition related to trafficking.

-- I. Is there evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking, on a local or institutional level? If so, please explain in detail.

No, there is no evidence of government involvement in trafficking. There is also no tolerance of trafficking in the government. Government officials stress that they know that trafficking is a serious crime, but they are just beginning to understand it.

-- J. If government officials are involved in human trafficking, what steps has the government taken to end such complicity? Please indicate the number of government officials investigated and prosecuted for involvement in trafficking or trafficking-related criminal activities during the reporting period. Have any been convicted? What sentence(s) was imposed? Please specify if officials received suspended sentences, or were given a fine, fired, or reassigned to another position within the government as punishment. Please indicate the number of convicted officials that received suspended sentences or received only a fine as punishment.

N/A



-- K. For countries that contribute troops to international peacekeeping efforts, please indicate whether the government vigorously investigated, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced nationals of the country deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping or other similar mission who engaged in or facilitated severe forms of trafficking or who exploited victims of such trafficking.

There are no reports of cases involving Basotho. Lesotho has had military observers and a contingent of police officers in Darfur.

-- L. If the country has an identified problem of child sex tourists coming to the country, what are the countries of origin for sex tourists? How many foreign pedophiles did the government prosecute or deport/extradite to their country of origin? If your host country's nationals are perpetrators of child sex tourism, do the country's child sexual abuse laws have extraterritorial coverage (similar to the U.S. PROTECT Act) to allow the prosecution of suspected sex tourists for crimes committed abroad? If so, how many of the country's nationals were prosecuted and/or convicted during the reporting period under the extraterritorial provision(s) for traveling to other countries to engage in child sex tourism?

The country has not been identified to have a child sex tourism problem. No foreign pedophiles have been identified. In June 2001 Lesotho submitted to the ILO an instrument of ratification for Convention 182 concerning the worst forms of child labor. The Rights of the Child Convention was ratified in April 1992. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime is under discussion for ratification.

14. (U) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS:

-- A. What kind of protection is the government able under existing law to provide for victims and witnesses? Does it provide these protections in practice?

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has a mandate to help orphaned and vulnerable children. However, Post is unaware of protection specific to victims of trafficking.

The government is aware of the need for victim protection as it begins to work on its National Plan. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for how to protect the victims.

-- B. Does the country have victim care facilities (shelters or drop-in centers) which are accessible to trafficking victims? Do foreign victims have the same access to care as domestic trafficking victims? Where are child victims placed (e.g., in shelters, foster care, or juvenile justice detention centers)? Does the country have specialized care for adults in addition to children? Does the country have specialized care for male victims as well as female? Does the country have specialized facilities dedicated to helping victims of trafficking? Are these facilities operated by the government or by NGOs? What is the funding source of these facilities? Please estimate the amount the government spent (in U.S. dollar equivalent) on these specialized facilities dedicated to helping trafficking victims during the reporting period.

Both domestic and international NGOs and donors have provided some local orphanages with funds to build new shelters or to expand existing shelters, as well as provide other supplies. UNDP is working with the government to build a new shelter for victims of gender-based violence, or violence toward children, which would be accessible to trafficking victims. There are no specialized facilities dedicated to helping victims of trafficking.

The government is aware of the need for safe shelter for victims as it begins to work on its National Plan. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for how to care for the victims.

-- C. Does the government provide trafficking victims with access to legal, medical and psychological services? If so, please specify the kind of assistance provided. Does the government provide funding or other forms of support to foreign or domestic NGOs and/or international organizations for

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providing these services to trafficking victims? Please explain and provide any funding amounts in U.S. dollar equivalent. If assistance provided was in-kind, please specify exact assistance. Please specify if funding for assistance comes from a federal budget or from regional or local governments.

Both domestic and international NGOs have provided orphanages with funds to build new shelters or to expand existing shelters, as well as provide other supplies. Post is not aware of the dollar amount of any assistance.

The government is aware of the need for victim services as it begins to work on its National Plan. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for how to provide adequate services to victims.

-- D. Does the government assist foreign trafficking victims, for example, by providing temporary to permanent residency status, or other relief from deportation? If so, please explain.

There is no indication that there are any foreign trafficking victims in Lesotho. Due to the lack of economic opportunity, it just does not make sense that victims would be trafficked here.

The government is aware of the need for proper status for victim as it begins to work on its National Plan. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for what kind of status should be given to victims.

-- E. Does the government provide longer-term shelter or housing benefits to victims or other resources to aid the victims in rebuilding their lives?

Not at this time, as no victims have been identified.

However, as the government begins to work on its National Plan, it is aware of the need to provide long-term shelter for some victims. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for how to house such victims.

-- F. Does the government have a referral process to transfer victims detained, arrested or placed in protective custody by law enforcement authorities to institutions that provide short- or long-term care (either government or NGO-run)?

Not at this time, as no victims have been identified.

As it begins to work on its National Plan, the government is aware of the need to define a procedure for dealing with victims. As the law is drafted and the first base-line study is completed, more detailed plans will be put in place for how to handle victims who might be inadvertently detained rather than rescued.

-- G. What is the total number of trafficking victims identified during the reporting period? (If available, please specify the type of exploitation of these victims - e.g. "The government



identified X number of trafficking victims during the reporting period, Y or which were victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and Z of which were victims of nonconsensual labor exploitation.) Of these, how many victims were referred to care facilities for assistance by law enforcement authorities during the reporting period? By social services officials? What is the number of victims assisted by government-funded assistance programs and those not funded by the government during the reporting period?

There are no official or unofficial statistics on trafficking in the country. The government is aware of this issue, and is looking to the Ministry of Home Affairs / UNDP study in Quthing to provide the first data of this kind.

-- H. Do the government's law enforcement, immigration, and social services personnel have a formal system of proactively identifying victims of trafficking among high-risk persons with whom they come in contact (e.g., foreign persons arrested for prostitution or immigration violations)? For countries with legalized prostitution, does the government have a mechanism for screening for trafficking victims among persons involved in the

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legal/regulated commercial sex trade?

Law enforcement officials have received training in this area, but there is not yet a formal system of proactively identifying victims of trafficking.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which administers the police and border agencies, is aware of the need to empower and educate police and border agents on identifying and detaining traffickers while rescuing their victims. They are willing to facilitate further training in this area, and are open to the idea of cross-border training involving South African police and border patrol services. However, they do not have adequate funding for training at this time. All areas of the Lesotho government have just had to cut their working budgets by 13% and training and workshops look to be some of the areas that will be most affected.

-- I. Are the rights of victims respected? Are trafficking victims detained or jailed? If so, for how long? Are victims fined? Are victims prosecuted for violations of other laws, such as those governing

No victims have yet been identified. However, the government is aware that one of the basic tenets in the fight against trafficking is protection for the victims, and as they begin to develop their national plan and draft their law, protection of the victims will be one of the key considerations.

-- J. Does the government encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking? How many victims assisted in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers during the reporting period? May victims file civil suits or seek legal action against traffickers? Does anyone impede victim access to such legal redress? If a victim is a material witness in a court case against a former employer, is the victim permitted to obtain other employment or to leave the country pending trial proceedings? Are there means by which a victim may obtain restitution?

No victims have yet been identified. However, the government is aware that one of the basic tenets in the fight against trafficking is protection for the victims, and as they begin to develop their national plan and draft their law, protection of the victims will be one of the key considerations.

-- K. Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in identifying trafficking victims and in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, including the special needs of trafficked children? Does the government provide training on protections and assistance to its embassies and consulates in foreign countries that are destination or

transit countries? What is the number of trafficking victims assisted by the host country's embassies or consulates abroad during the reporting period? Please explain the type of assistance provided (travel documents, referrals to assistance, payment for transportation home).

The government, through the Intersectoral Committee, has encouraged participation in the three trafficking in persons workshops sponsored by the Embassy from 2008-2009. The most recent, in October 2009, particularly targeted law enforcement and immigration officials, and focused on identifying traffickers and their victims, as well as what laws could be used to prosecute them under Lesotho's existing legal system. According to media reports, South African police are working together with the Lesotho Mounted Police Service on trafficking. The October training was done in partnership with Women and Law in Southern Africa, a local NGO which is doing a lot of work on trafficking.

We have no data on what is done in Lesotho's embassies and consulates.

-- L. Does the government provide assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help, to its nationals who are repatriated as victims of trafficking?

No victims have yet been identified. However, the government is aware that one of the basic tenets in the fight against trafficking is protection for the victims, and as they begin to develop their national plan and draft their law, protection of the victims will be one of the key considerations.

-- M. Which international organizations or NGOs, if any, work

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with trafficking victims? What type of services do they provide? What sort of cooperation do they receive from local authorities?

The primary NGO in the country which works with trafficking is the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit (LCCU). The director of LCCU has a regular column in a local newspaper, and many of her articles focus on trafficking, how to identify traffickers, and how to help victims.

#### 15. (U) PREVENTION:

-- A. Did the government conduct anti-trafficking information or education campaigns during the reporting period? If so, briefly describe the campaign(s), including their objectives and effectiveness. Please provide the number of people reached by such awareness efforts, if available. Do these campaigns target potential trafficking victims and/or the demand for trafficking (e.g. "clients" of prostitutes or beneficiaries of forced labor)? (Note: This can be an especially noteworthy effort where prostitution is legal. End Note.)

The government has conducted anti-trafficking information campaigns during the past year. The campaigns have been highly effective, causing an increase in articles about trafficking in the local print news from almost nothing to twenty articles within the past six months. The campaigns have been a joint effort between the Government of Lesotho and the government of South Africa. They targeted areas where trafficking is suspected to be more prevalent, at the large border towns on the Lesotho side of the Lesotho-South Africa border.

The Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) of the Lesotho Mounted Police collaborates with local communities and other stakeholders on awareness-raising on the needs of children and services provided by the unit. They also create awareness and education to the members of the Lesotho Mounted Police on the protection of children's and women's rights, with emphasis on identifying victims of abuse and trafficking. This is done through training of Lesotho police and other law enforcement agencies such as airport and border personnel that are essential

in preventing human trafficking.

UNICEF has assisted the CGPU to distribute materials to create awareness of human trafficking, and The Minister of Home affairs presided over the "Women and Law in Southern Africa" launch of their "Red Light" campaign.  
([http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/articles/2009/RED\\_LIGHT\\_2010.php](http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/articles/2009/RED_LIGHT_2010.php))

-- B. Does the government monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking?

Immigration officials at the airport informed Post that they do monitor immigration and emigration patterns. They are still learning how to identify traffickers and their victims, but they are already tracking unusual patterns of immigration.

Government intelligence services also monitor immigration and emigration patterns.

-- C. Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking-related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force?

The Intersectoral committee described in section 1A is the mechanism for coordination and communication.

-- D. Does the government have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons? If the plan was developed during the reporting period, which agencies were involved in developing it? Were NGOs consulted in the process? What steps has the government taken to implement the action plan?

The government does have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons which was developed by the Intersectoral committee. The plan was developed during the reporting period. Agencies involved are described in 1A, as they make up the Intersectoral committee. NGOs are members of the Intersectoral committee. The government has requested funding from UNDP to begin work on a baseline study. The initial study will be a "rapid assessment" which will take place in two of the ten districts, Maseru, and Quthing, where it is expected that trafficking levels will be representative, if not higher, than that in other districts. The rapid assessment is expected to be

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completed approximately six weeks from now. When the assessment is concluded, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with UNDP and the consultant hired for the project, will produce a report which will be shared with the rest of the government and the Intersectoral Committee. The consultant is also expected to work with the Intersectoral Committee to further develop the country's National plan of Action, and give them concrete steps for moving forward, including suggestions for necessary training.

-- E: Required of all Posts: What measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts? (please see ref B, para. 9(3) for examples)

Post is not aware of any measures taken.

-- F. Required of all Posts: What measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the participation in international child sex tourism by nationals of the country?

There is no evidence that any Basotho nationals participate in international child sex tourism.

### 130. (U) PARTNERSHIPS

Secretary Clinton has identified a fourth "P", Partnerships, recognizing that governments' partnerships with other government and elements of civil society are key to effective anti-TIP strategies. Although the 2010 Report will include references and/or descriptions of these partnerships, they will not be

considered in the determining the tier rankings, except in cases where a partnership contributes to the government's efforts to implement the TVPA's minimum standards.

-- A. Does the government engage with other governments, civil society, and/or multilateral organizations to focus attention and devote resources to addressing human trafficking? If so, please provide details.

Yes. As described in 5a and 5d above.

-- B. What sort of international assistance does the government provide to other countries to address TIP?

The government of Lesotho is in need of international foreign assistance to help combat this problem. They do not have the resources to assist others financially.  
NOLAN